

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 at line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

--Melted portions of the first and second pieces of plastic material 10 and 12 mix together to ~~forms~~ form a weld pool 60 in a location between the first and second pieces of plastic material 10 and 12. As is discussed below, cooling of the weld pool 60 forms the weld 56 that bonds together the first and second pieces of plastic material 10 and 12. Thus, with reference to Fig. 2, the weld pool 60 has the identical, generally square-shape as the weld 56.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--The monitoring portion 34 of the apparatus 30 includes an infrared camera 70, an optical filter 72, an image controller 74, and may optionally include an alarm device 76. The infrared camera 70 is positioned above the second piece of plastic material 12, as viewed in Fig. 1, on ~~an-side~~ a side of the second piece of plastic material 12 opposite the first piece of plastic material 10. Preferably, the infrared camera 70 is centrally located above an area, indicated generally by 80, in which the weld 56 is to be formed to bond together the first and second pieces of material 10 and 12.--